



**File Code:** 1950  
**Date:** June 8, 2018

Dear Interested Party

This letter is to inform you that the Crescent Ranger District has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) for the Upper Little Deschutes Restoration Project (ULDR). The Draft EA is now available for a 30-day public comment period. This letter provides a brief summary of the project and information on how to comment.

The project area (6,286 acres) encompasses two separate areas along the Little Deschutes River that are separated by private land. It includes a northern portion (also known as Odell Pasture), and the southern area that is adjacent to Highway 58 that is partially bordered on the east side by private land. Forest Service Road 6125 (Gulick Road) traverses through this portion and the western edge of the northern portion of the project area. The legal description is: Township 24S, Range 08E, Sections 26, 32, 33, 34, 35 and Township 25S, R08E, Sections 4, 5, 8, 17, 19, and 20, Willamette Meridian.

Alternatives considered are the No Action Alternative (Alternative A) and the Proposed Action (Alternative B). The Proposed Action includes **Riparian enhancement** and restoration for the enhancement of habitat for Oregon spotted frogs and various trout species through the installation of instream structures consisting of single to multiple logs and/or beaver dam analog structures that would be constructed of smaller logs that would span the river and reconnection of diverted water to the river. Also included is the enhancement of riparian and aspen habitats through the removal of encroaching lodgepole pine, in addition to removing unauthorized bridge type structures.

**Sustainable recreation** proposed actions would provide recreational opportunities while reducing impacts to riparian and sensitive upland wildlife habitat. There are 19 dispersed sites (DS) and two dump sites (DUMP) that have been identified in the planning area which will be redefined or decommissioned.

**Sustainable transportation** proposed actions would create a road system that maintains public access throughout the project area while protecting wildlife and reducing resource damage such as vegetation loss and river sedimentation due to unmanaged vehicle use. Unauthorized routes would be decommissioned and/or rehabilitated to the degree needed to return the ground to a productive state.

The Draft ULDR EA is now available for comment. All documents, including draft resource reports, are available on the Internet in PDF format at:

[https://data.ecosystem-management.org/nepaweb/nepa\\_project\\_exp.php?project=51024](https://data.ecosystem-management.org/nepaweb/nepa_project_exp.php?project=51024)

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted for 30 calendar days following publication of a legal notice in *The Bulletin*, Bend, Oregon, the newspaper of record (see 218.25(a)(2)). The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this proposal. Those wishing to comment should not rely on dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. Regulations prohibit extending the length of the comment period. Written comments should be sent or delivered to the Responsible Official: District Ranger Daniel Rife, PO Box 208, Crescent, Oregon, 97733. The office hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Friday, excluding holidays.



Those submitting electronic copies must put the project name in the subject line, and must either submit comments as part of the e-mail message or as an attachment in one of the following three formats: Microsoft Word, rich text format (rtf), Adobe Portable Document format (PDF), and must do so only to the following email address: [comments-pacificnorthwest-deschutes-crescent@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-pacificnorthwest-deschutes-crescent@fs.fed.us). Please put "ULDR EA" in the subject line of your email. In cases where no identifiable name is attached to a comment, a verification of identity will be required for objection eligibility. A scanned signature is one way to provide verification. Emails containing viruses or sent to other email addresses will be rejected. It is the responsibility of persons providing comments by electronic means to submit them by the close of the comment period and to ensure that their comments have been received.

This project will be subject to the pre-decisional objection process outlined at 36 CFR 218. Comments received during this public review of the EA will be considered, and if necessary the EA will be revised and a draft Decision Notice will then be released for a 45 day review and objection period. Only those who submit timely and specific written comments during this or other public comment periods will be eligible to file an objection. For objection eligibility each individual or representative from each entity submitting timely and specific written comments regarding the proposed project or activity must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request. Individuals and organizations wishing to be eligible to object must meet the information requirements of 36 CFR 218.

For further information, or to obtain a paper copy of the EA, please contact Joan Kittrell, District Wildlife Biologist, Crescent Ranger District, PO Box 208, Crescent, Oregon, 97733 or call at (541) 433-3237.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rife Sullivan", is written over the printed name.

DANIEL RIFE  
District Ranger

For